

Frye Lights

A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



November 2004

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A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye

As I write this, an election of extreme importance — both for this city and for this country — looms just a day away. Over the last few weeks, I have traveled throughout San Diego and talked to people who have willingly taken the challenge to get involved in local government. They see through the veneer of secrecy that for too long has been the standard operating method for government here in San Diego.

Nearly 141 years ago — November 20, 1863, to be precise — President Abraham Lincoln stepped up as a secondary speaker at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to deliver what is considered the most resonant political speech in U.S. history. Lincoln had not consulted with pollsters to determine what would "sell" in Gettysburg, where fierce battles between Union and Confederate troops had raged for days. And there was no more poignant moment in that two-minute speech than its conclusion "that this nation under God shall have a new birth of

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*Proudly Serving
the District Six
Communities of:*

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

Clairemont

De Anza

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Stonecrest

Donna Frye: Foundation for Economic Justice's Woman of the Year

Councilmember Frye was honored October 7, 2004, as the **Woman of the Year** for 2003 by the **Foundation for Economic Justice** for "standing up for the public interest and commitment to the principles of economic justice." The councilmember proudly accepted the honor from the Foundation, whose mission is to inspire public interest in basic economics, including the important role in preserving and furthering universal prosperity in the San Diego region.

The Foundation bestowed the honor upon Councilmember Frye for her efforts in seeking a fair return on leases of city-owned property. In a statement, the Foundation

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Councilmember Frye, Woman of the Year award in hand, is flanked by Foundation for Economic Justice members Lionel Van Deerlin (left), Alan Ridley (upper right), and board President Harry Valasek.

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*It Was a Long Time Coming, But
Ground Is Finally Broken for
Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library*



Councilmember Frye joined Mayor Dick Murphy, Councilmember Jim Madaffer (third and fourth from the left) and a group of community leaders in a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library.

It might only have been a pile of dirt on a nearby parking lot, but the ceremonial ground-breaking led by Councilmember Frye on October 9, 2004, for the new **Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library** brought big smiles to a crowd of more than 100 community residents who had waited nearly 14 years for the highly anticipated moment.

"Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of dedicated community volunteers, we have a great location [9005 Aero Drive] and design," Councilmember Frye told the gathering. "Our new library will provide educational opportunities and serve as a cultural center for all members of our community."

Construction is scheduled to be completed in April 2006.

At more than 15,000 square feet, the new library will be more than three times the size of the current Serra Mesa branch and will include a large children's area, meeting and conference rooms, a larger collection of books and media and a 30-computer lab.

"The new Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch is another great step in our ongoing plan to build a library system for the 21st century," said Mayor Dick Murphy, who along with Councilmember Jim Madaffer joined Councilmember Frye for the ceremonial groundbreaking, after which an earth mover on the site revved up and belched smoke as a symbolic start to construction.

*Councilmembers Frye, Atkins
Honored with 2004 Beacon Awards
for Fighting Closed-Session Abuse*

The **California First Amendment Coalition** on October 9, 2004, recognized Councilmember Donna Frye and Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins with prestigious **Beacon Awards** for boycotting excessive closed sessions of the San Diego City Council and pushing through a temporary ordinance that improved public access to meetings.

The councilmembers were honored not only for boycotting closed sessions they deemed inappropriate, but were praised for seeking an end to the practice legislatively.

"These two councilmembers created such a stir that they forced through a set of temporary rules to control the abuse of closed sessions — rules that every city council in the state might be wise to adopt," the Coalition said in announcing the awards. "It called for release of much more material, even public discussion, in the case of litigation matters. It called for fuller agenda items on closed meetings. It called for a transcription of all closed meetings.

"And it called for open discussion about whether a closed session was justified. The mayor was aghast . . ."

The Coalition also lauded Frye and Atkins for creating the City Council's **Right to Know Committee**, "designed to formulate permanent sunshine reform," and "they succeeded in getting on the November ballot a City Charter amendment that would add the language of Prop. 59, applying its principles of openness directly to the city."

The California First Amendment Coalition called the councilmembers' efforts "unprecedented." Frye and Atkins spearheaded adoption by the council of several temporary policy changes to shed greater light on council decision-making.

The changes included a requirement that agendas for closed sessions describe in plain language every item to be considered by the City Council.



Councilmember Frye's Beacon Award, for her work fighting the culture of secrecy at City Hall.



Community Leader Highlight *- Charles W. Johnson, Sr. -*

Over decades of work in the Linda Vista community, **Charles W. Johnson, Sr.** has few equals. A Navy veteran who is retiring from active service following a 30-year career (including a tour of duty in Vietnam), Charles has been greatly responsible, as a member of the city's Redistricting Committee, for uniting a community that only a few years ago found itself divided between two council districts. Because of his efforts, Linda Vista has been able to take advantage of its cultural diversity and improve the quality of life for all of its residents.



Charles W. Johnson Sr. (left) and family hold proclamation given by Councilmember Frye.

Charles' contributions to the community have been numerous: founder and past president of the Domino Club of San Diego; founding member and past president of the Linda Vista Civic Association and past member of the Linda Vista Planning Committee.

In recognition of Charles' service to the community, Councilmember Frye proclaimed October 11, 2004, to be "Charles W. Johnson, Sr. Day" in the city of San Diego. Councilmember Frye wishes to thank Charles for all his years of hard work to improve the quality of life for all residents of Linda Vista.

Get Your Passport Nov. 6 at MV Library

The City of San Diego Peninsula Community Service Center is having a special **Saturday Passport Event** at the Mission Valley Library on November 6, 2004, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The library is located at 2123 Fenton Parkway, near IKEA and Costco. This is an excellent opportunity for families with schoolchildren to obtain their U.S. passports without having to take time off during the week.

Please call 619-692-4970 for more information, or visit the Community Service Center (3740 Sports Arena Boulevard, Suite 2) to pick up application materials.

A Message From the Desk of *Councilmember Donna Frye Continued*

freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Those words ring more true to me today than they ever have. San Diegans crave — demand, really — straight-talking, no-nonsense government leaders who understand the reward of public service.

The public deserves leaders who know what a great honor and responsibility it is to serve.

There is no doubt that we face some daunting challenges in the coming years. Nevertheless, by working together, our city faces a much brighter future.

As John F. Kennedy once said: "We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

Over the past few weeks, I've loved meeting each and every person who has come up to shake my hand, given me encouragement, or even told me to do something different with my hair.

We are blessed with a tremendous pool of talented, hard-working San Diegans who make up our city. I have every confidence that together we will get through these trying times.

Sincerely,

Offering Diverse Charitable Opportunities, *City Launches Philanthropy Center*

Recently, the City of San Diego began a new philanthropy initiative. The **Major Gifts and Philanthropy Planning Program** launched the new Philanthropy Center on the City's website. The City offers diverse philanthropic opportunities and promotes the concept of charitable donations on behalf of civic priorities. To reach and explore the new Center, link to the following: www.sandiego.gov/philanthropycenter.



Foundation for Economic Justice Woman of the Year Award Continued —

“applauded her stand on defending public rights to receive just compensation for the use of public lands — in particular full-market rent for valuable city lands leased by various corporate entities and others.”

Lionel Van Deerlin, a Foundation board member, praised Councilmember Frye for her meritorious service to the citizens of the City of San Diego and the entire San Diego region. The Foundation for Economic Justice was pleased to recognize Donna Frye for her selfless contributions to making San Diego a better place to live through her efforts to improve economic justice in our community.

The Foundation noted: “Too often there is a tendency for large corporations to demand and receive special treatment and special privileges at the expense of the best public interest.

“Even when it was unpopular and perhaps isolating, Donna Frye stood up for the public interest against Goliath.

“The Foundation for Economic Justice applauds her courage and integrity. For now the public interest has been recognized and some corporations will rightly pay a fair share of the rent they owe the citizens of the City of San Diego for the use of public lands. These are the kinds of actions that can help right the flagging financial resources of an otherwise wealthy and prosperous City of San Diego. This is a victory that unfortunately is all too rare, so it is celebrated.”

Founded in 1995, the Foundation continues to educate and inform citizens and interested parties about basic economics and related issues. It builds on the traditions and work of an earlier school founded by Superior Court Judge Andrews and General Joseph Pendleton, for whom Camp Pendleton is named, as well as the work of its other predecessor organization, **Basic Economic Education, Inc.** Meetings are held from 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of the month at the John D. Spreckels Masonic Lodge Building, 3858 Front Street. The public is welcome.

Check Out the Mission Valley Library

- **How a Comic Book is Made —** Owner Robert Scott of Comickaze will tell how on Monday, Nov. 15, 2004, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Young Kids Concert —** String musical instruments are explained by “The String Family” on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2004, from 7 to 8 p.m.
- **Movie Time —** The film “Road to Rio,” starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour, will be shown Friday, Nov. 19, 2004, at 7 p.m.
- **Story Times —** Baby-Toddler, every Monday at 10:30 a.m. Pre-School, every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.
- **Arts Lecture —** “Make It So You Make It: Presenting Yourself in the Art Marketplace” on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2004, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **The Mars Society —** “Mars 2004 Exploration Update,” Monday, Nov. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. The San Diego Mars Rover will be there.

Expanded Tecolote Nature Center Reopens — Includes New Exhibits

On October 1, 2004, Councilmember Donna Frye joined Eloise Battle, Park & Recreation Director Ellie Oppenheim and Kumeyaay elder Jane Dumas in celebrating the grand re-opening of the **Tecolote Nature Center**. With the combined efforts of the councilmember, Park and Recreation

Department and various other funding sources, the Center was able to expand the facility considerably. The much-needed addition will open the center to a multitude of additional programmatic and educational services for the public.



Councilmember Frye presides over the re-opening of the Tecolote Nature Center on October 1.

The expansion includes an enlarged main exhibit space, a new enhanced patio, restroom, a spacious separate classroom building, a conference room, a kitchen area and an office to accommodate three Park Rangers. Running north-south, **Tecolote Canyon Natural Park** is located in a narrow coastal valley. It divides, by its southern half, the communities of Clairemont and Linda Vista and, by its northern half, the west and east areas of Clairemont. The park offers its visitors a host of educational and recreational opportunities. The Canyon has approximately 6.5 miles of trails that can be used for jogging, walking and mountain biking.

Enjoy the many new and exciting exhibits at the Center and the extensive hiking trails along the canyon!



Councilmember Frye presents Community Council President Les Williamson with a commendation proclaiming September 18, 2004, "Serra Mesa Day" and honoring the efforts of the Community Council and local businesses in sponsoring the 5th Annual Serra Mesa Community Fair.

Councilmember Frye Celebrates 5th Annual Serra Mesa Community Fair

On September 18, 2004, hundreds of San Diegans turned out for the 5th Annual **Serra Mesa Community Fair**, which for the first year was held at the corner of Sandrock Road and Greyling Drive.

Appropriately enough, the motto for this year's fair was "Takin' It to the Streets."

Councilmember Frye attended the fair and presented Les Williamson, president of the Serra Mesa Community Council (fair co-sponsor), with a commendation proclaiming September 18, 2004, as "Serra Mesa Day" in Council District 6.

Thanks to the Serra Mesa Community Council, the Serra Mesa Business Community and all the marvelous community volunteers who make this special event possible each year!

Immunizations Available at Clairemont Community Service Center

The City of San Diego's **Clairemont Community Service Center**, in cooperation with the County of San Diego's **North Central Public Health Center**, hosts an immunization clinic on the first Friday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m.

Low-cost immunizations are available for people of all ages, and free immunizations are available for children under 2 years of age. The next shot clinics are scheduled for Friday, **November 5**, and Friday, **December 3**, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Due to limited supplies, flu shots will be available only for infants and toddlers or older children with chronic illnesses. The center is located at 4731 Clairemont Drive in the Clairemont Town Square Shopping Center. For more information, call the center at (858) 581-4111.

Exchange Light Bulbs for Energy Savers! Offer Limited to SDG&E Customers

Here's a chance to turn in up to five of your 75-watt-or-higher incandescent light bulbs and save energy.

On November 10, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or until supplies run out), the **Clairemont Community Service Center** will be hosting a light-bulb exchange during which SDG&E customers will receive up to five energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs at no cost.

This offer is based on a one-for-one exchange and limited to five bulbs per household per year. Just come to the SDG&E lighting event with your bulbs, a valid California identification and a copy of your current SDG&E bill.

Traffic Workshop for Murray Ridge Rd.- Polland Ave. Intersection Set for Nov. 18

Hoping to help resolve concerns raised by parents and residents over the recent removal of a school crosswalk, the District Six Office of Councilmember Donna Frye has scheduled a **Traffic Calming Workshop** to be held during the November 18, 2004, meeting of the Serra Mesa Planning Group.

The workshop, which will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m., will focus on a discussion of traffic-slowing solutions for the intersection of **Murray Ridge Road** and **Polland Avenue**, near Jones Elementary School. School officials, police and traffic engineers are set to attend and answer questions about the intersection.



Councilmember Frye Picks “Keep It Clean” As Theme For 2005 Student Film Fest

For the third year running, Councilmember Donna Frye has chosen **BestFest America’s** public-service-announcement theme.

In 2003, it was “Slow Down on the Streets Where We Live.” In 2004, it was the timely “Voice Your Vote.”

Now, for 2005, high school and college students will produce 60-second commercials on the anti-littering theme “Keep it Clean.” Entry forms can be found at the www.BestFestAmerica.com web site.

The deadline is Monday, May 9, 2005, for college students and Monday, June 6, 2005 for high-school students — both at 5p.m. at the San Diego Film Commission office.

Two rounds of judging will pare the entries down to those of five high-school and five college students, which will be screened in their entirety during the two-day **BestFest America Student Film Festival**, slated for Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7, 2005.

“There’s nothing like grassroots public awareness to create change,” Councilmember Frye said. “We’re so fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

“Yet you don’t have to look very far to see the effects of mindless littering and how it can have such a pronounced negative impact. Challenging thousands of student filmmakers to become aware, get involved, and produce thought-provoking PSAs is a good first step for change.”

Other BestFest categories for 2005 include Comedy, Drama, Experimental, Documentary and Music Video with entry forms available online.

The ever-popular “48 Hours of Madness” will also return this year for school teams to compete in the ultimate filmmaking challenge — creating their unique interpretation in a 5-minute movie taken from the identical five-page script — all within 48 hours!

The BestFest America Student Film Festival, run by the 19-year-old, non-profit Visual Arts Foundation (www.TheVisualArtsFoundation.org), has grown to become the nation’s largest student film festival, with 751 students submitting entries in 2004.

The District Six office of Councilmember Frye is one of several sponsors of the BestFest film festival.



Councilmember Frye presents an \$8,000 check for new playground equipment at Angiers Elementary School in Serra Mesa.

Water Department Golf Tourney Raises \$8,000 for SM School Play Equipment

Students at **Angier Elementary School** will get new playground equipment — thanks to the city’s **Water Department**, which is donating \$8,000 from its fourth-annual golf tournament.

On September 27, 2004, Councilmember Frye and Water Department Director **Frank Belock** presented an enlarged \$8,000 check to administrators of the Serra Mesa school during a morning assembly attended by scores of school children.

“It’s so important to work together to improve the conditions at our local schools,” Councilmember Frye said. “The proceeds from this event will go towards new playground equipment. It’s a tremendous gift for our children.”

“We are very excited at the opportunity to give back to the community by helping out a nearby school,” said **Mark Stone**, Deputy Director for the Water Department’s Operations Division. “We are fortunate that our Water Department employees and friends took the time to support this fundraising event, which benefits educational partnership opportunities like this one.”

The Water Department hosted its fourth-annual golf tournament in June at the Carmel Mountain Ranch Golf Course. More than 40 sponsors generously helped support the event.

Councilmember Frye extends her gratitude for all who participated in this worthy cause!



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858 495-7856
Animal Regulation	619 236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619 235-1169
Birth and Death Records	619 237-0502
Brush Abatement	858 533-4444
Building Permits	619 446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619 233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858 292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619 533-4000
City Directory	619 236-5555
Community Service Center	858 581-4111
Code Violations	619 236-5500
Curb Maintenance	619 527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858 694-7000
Dog Licenses	619 767-2675
Fire Stations	619 533-4300
Graffiti	619 525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858 694-7000
Housing Commission	619 231-9400
Humane Society	619 299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858 573-1390
Clairemont	858 581-9935
Linda Vista	858 573-1399
North Clairemont	858 581-9931
Serra Mesa	858 573-1396
Litter Control	858 492-5010
Noise Regulation	619 236-5500
Office of Small Business	619 685-1390
Park and Recreation	619 525-8219
Parking Citations	619 236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	619 531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	619 527-7500
Rec Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858 573-1387
Linda Vista	858 573-1392
North Clairemont	858 581-9926
Serra Mesa	858 573-1408
South Clairemont	858 581-9924
Tecolote	858 581-9930
Recycling Hotline	858 694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619 236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858 565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619 515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	619 527-7500
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	619 235-1000
Street Lights	619 527-7500
Street Sweeping	619 527-7500
Traffic Control	619 533-3126
Tree Maintenance	619 527-7500
Water Emergency	619 515-3525
Water Utilities	619 515-3500
Zoning Regulation Info	619 236-5555

District Six Community Meetings

Clairemont Town Council

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria,
4150 Ute Drive

When: 1st Thursday/ Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: Clairemont Friendship Senior Center,
4425 Bannock Ave.

When: 3rd Tuesday/ Month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: National University,
9388 Light Wave # 114

When: 3rd Wednesday/ Month

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Civic Association

Place: Baha'i Center

6545 Alcala Knolls Drive

When: 3rd Thursday/ Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group

Place: Linda Vista Library,
2160 Ulric Street

When: 4th Monday/ Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue

When: 1st Tuesday/Month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway

When: 3rd Thursday/ Odd Months

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Unified Planning Committee

Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway

When: 1st Wednesday/ Month

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council

Place: ARC, 9575 Aero Drive

When: 4th Wednesday/ Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Taft Junior High School,
9191 Gramercy Dr.

When: 3rd Thursday/ Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.



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Frye Lights: A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



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